



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
2005**

**Grade 5
Reading**

Reading

Use the definitions below to answer the question.

meter *n.* 1. a beat or rhythm in poetry: *The meter of the poem made it sound like a song.* 2. a division of music into measures or bars: *The instructor indicated to the students to start again, using a 4-4 meter.* 3. a unit of measurement: *The relay team ran the 400 meters in record time.* 4. a device used to measure time, speed, distance, or volume: *The person from the electric company arrived to read the electric meter.*

- 1 Just as we arrived at the car, the meter changed, and we deposited more coins so we could stay there.

Which is the **best** definition of the word meter as it is used in this sentence?

- A. definition 1
- B. definition 2
- C. definition 3
- D. definition 4

- 2 A synonym (same meaning) for the word prompt is
- A. tardy.
 - B. favorable.
 - C. in tune.
 - D. on time.

*Read this passage from the novel Junebug about a boy in fourth grade.
Then answer the questions that follow.*

My Wish

by Alice Mead

1 I've got the sail hauled in tight. Lanyard's* wrapped around my wrist. That sailboat leans over and just about flies out of the water, lifting high like a bird's wing. Foam and bubbles hiss past until there's a long, snaky trail behind us. I set sail for the West Indies, wherever they may be.

2 I don't really, though. Don't set sail for anywhere. Truth is, I'm just sitting in my seat, leaning my head against the wall of my fourth-grade class at the Auburn Street School, by the windows. That lanyard is the cord from the venetian blinds.** It's Monday afternoon and I'm waiting for the three o'clock bell to ring so I can go get my little sister, Tasha, and head on home.

We're supposed to be finishing up a paragraph to hand in to Miss Jenkins, but I can't even get started. The only thing on my paper is my name and the title, "My Wish." Then nothing but thin blue lines.

I grab onto the cord one more time and look out the window. The wood along the classroom windowsills is old and yellow, and it has wavy black streaks underneath the shiny surface. I run my fingers along it. The windowsill's got lots of varnish on it, just the way sailboats have varnish on them, so the water won't rot the wood.

See? I know all about sailboats from those magazines Mrs. Swanson brings in to the project library. They come from a dentist's office. She's got so many she said I could keep some of them. Now they're under my bed in a big stack right next to my bottle collection.

Thinking about those bottles reminds me that I *do* have a wish. A birthday wish. And I'm going to put my wish on tiny pieces of paper, shove them into the bottles, and float them out to sea.



*lanyard: a short rope used for holding sails

**venetian blinds: window coverings with cords to raise and lower them

- 3** In the first paragraph, the word hauled means
- A. circled.
 - B. pulled.
 - C. carried.
 - D. trucked.
- 4** In paragraph 2, we learn that the narrator is
- A. daydreaming.
 - B. going sailing.
 - C. writing about sailing.
 - D. writing notes.
- 5** The boy learned about sailboats by reading
- A. magazines at the dentist's office.
 - B. books at home.
 - C. books at Mrs. Swanson's home.
 - D. magazines at the library.
- 6** Who is telling this story?
- A. the teacher
 - B. the librarian
 - C. the boy
 - D. the sister
- 7** Explain why “My Wish” is a good title for this story. Use information from the story to support your answer.

Read this article about Susan Butcher. Butcher is one of the few women who has competed successfully in the Iditarod, a long and difficult sled-dog race. Then answer the questions that follow.

Susan Butcher

by Laurie Lanzen Harris

The Iditarod

While she was living in Colorado, Butcher read about the Iditarod sled-dog race. The race is held in Alaska and follows a route stretching 1,157 miles, from Anchorage to Nome. It covers forests, mountains, ice-covered rivers, and parts of the frozen Bering Sea.

The race takes place in March. The racers face temperatures as low as 50 degrees below zero. The winds rage as high as 150 miles an hour. Blizzards come up without warning.

The teams have between 7 and 20 trained sled dogs. The racers stop at 25 checkpoints along the way. There, they feed and care for their dogs. The race lasts between 10 and 14 days. It is one of the toughest athletic events in the world.

The Iditarod is held in honor of a famous team of sled-dog drivers, or "mushers." In 1925, these brave men raced to deliver medicine to prevent an epidemic in Nome.

Butcher knew she had to take part in this great race.

Moving to Alaska

In 1975, Butcher packed up her dogs and belongings and moved to Alaska. She worked briefly at odd jobs, including chopping up salmon in a factory, to raise money. Then she had a pilot fly her to southeastern Alaska, in the Wrangell Mountains.

With only her dogs for company, Butcher built herself a log cabin. She had no running water or electricity. She was 40 miles from her nearest neighbor and 50 miles from the nearest road.

Butcher loved her new life. She chopped wood, hauled water, hunted for food, and trained her dogs. "Everything was dependent on you," she recalled. "The reward was living in the most gorgeous spot on earth."

She met a sled-dog racer, Joe Redington, who hired her to train dogs. Redington had been one of the founders of the Iditarod. He told Butcher she should give it a try. She decided she would.

Competing in the Iditarod

Butcher first raced in the Iditarod in 1978. She did extremely well, placing 19th. Over the next 15 years, she raced every year. She kept getting better and better. In 1982 and 1984, she placed second, and in 1985 she had a chance to win. But that year, a moose attacked and killed two of her dogs during the race. Thirteen other dogs were injured in the attack. Butcher quit the race and stayed with the dogs until they were better.

Winning the Iditarod Three Times in a Row

In 1986, Butcher was back. She faced danger and challenges that year. Early on, her two lead dogs fell through the ice. They almost pulled the other dogs and the sled in with them. But the well-trained dogs knew to stop. They pulled the others to safety. Butcher and her team went on to win their first Iditarod.

12 In 1987, she won again. The next year, 1988, she slid off the course and crashed into a boulder. After getting back on the trail, she faced a blizzard. But she and her team triumphed to win their third straight Iditarod. She was the first person ever to accomplish that feat.

- 8 The purpose of the paragraphs under the heading “The Iditarod” is to
- A. explain Susan Butcher’s childhood.
 - B. give information about the Iditarod.
 - C. give details of dog-sled building.
 - D. explain how Butcher won the Iditarod.
- 9 The **main** reason Butcher wanted to go to Alaska was to
- A. take part in the big race.
 - B. escape her boring life in Colorado.
 - C. train and live with dogs.
 - D. raise money working at odd jobs.
- 10 What was Butcher’s greatest benefit of life in the small log cabin?
- A. She lived with her dogs.
 - B. She lived in the beautiful country.
 - C. She hunted for food.
 - D. She had no electricity.
- 11 In paragraph 12, the word feat means
- A. mistake.
 - B. achievement.
 - C. fantasy.
 - D. shame.
- 12 Susan Butcher faced many challenges during the Iditarod. Explain how she overcame them. Use information from the article to support your answer.

Acknowledgments

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“My Wish” (p. 2) from *Junebug* by Alice Mead. Published by Farrar, Straus, and Giroux. Copyright © 1995 by Alice Mead.

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Grade 5 Reading Released Item Information

Released Item Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Content Strand ¹	WV	WV	WV	LA	LI	LI	LA	IA	II	IA	WV	II
GLE Code	4-2	4-3	4-2	4-5	4-4	4-4	4-5	4-8	4-7	4-8	4-2	4-7
Depth of Knowledge Code	1	2	2	1	2	1	3	2	2	3	2	2
Item Type ²	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR
Answer Key	D	D	B	A	D	C		B	A	B	B	
Total Possible Points	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	4

¹Content Strand: WV = Word ID/Vocabulary, LI = Literary/Initial Understanding, LA = Literary/Analysis & Interpretation,
 II = Informational/Initial Understanding, IA = Informational/Analysis & Interpretation

²Item Type: MC = Multiple-Choice, CR = Constructed Response



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
Support Materials
2005**

**Grade 5
Reading**

**NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 5 READING**

- 7 Explain why “My Wish” is a good title for this story. Use information from the story to support your answer.

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough explanation of why “My Wish” is a good title for this story. Response includes relevant information from the story.
3	Response provides an explanation of why “My Wish” is a good title for this story. Response includes some information from the story.
2	Response provides a partial explanation of why “My Wish” is a good title for this story. Response uses limited information from the story.
1	Response is vague/minimal.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	no response

Training Notes:

**Other responses are acceptable as long as they are supported by the story.
Some reasons why “My Wish” is a good title for this story:**

The first paragraph of the story shows the boy’s interest in sailing. The final paragraph connects this interest and his birthday wish. To achieve this wish he is going to write on slips of paper, put the papers in bottles, and float them out to sea. Ironically, the boy is not writing his composition titled “My Wish.”

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 5 READING

SCORE POINT 4

"My wish" is a good title for this story because it tells about a little boy who is in fourth grade and likes sailboats. He knows a lot about sailboats from magazines that were at the library that he has read and he's at his desk and needs to write a paragraph for his teacher Miss Jenkins, and all that he has on his paper is his name and the title My wish. Then the boy thinks about what's under his bed magazines from the library, and his bottle collection and he figures out what he's going to write about now he's going to write about his birthday wish and he's going to put on a piece of paper put it in a bottle and put it in the sea. "My wish" is a good title for this book because it is talking about this boy's wish.

The response provides a thorough explanation of why "My Wish" is a good title for the story, and includes relevant information.

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 5 READING

SCORE POINT 3

"My Wish" is a good title for this story because it about a story the boy's writing. The boy in the story is thinking of what to write in his story. "My Wish" is a good title because at the end when he was thinking about the bottles, it made him realize he did have a wish. This title does fit this story, it's about a boy thinking of his wish. "My Wish" is a good title.

The response provides an explanation of why "My Wish" is a good title for the story, and includes some information.

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 5 READING

SCORE POINT 2

The title "My Wish" is a good title for this story because the story is about the boy's wish. The boy is telling the story, so the title should be "My Wish". He wishes that he was on a sailboat. The story does not say that, but if you read the story, then you will know.

The response provides a partial explanation with limited support.

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 5 READING

SCORE POINT 1

It's called my wish because he is thinking about his wish. The boy in the story is explaining about the wishes.

The response is minimal.

SCORE POINT 0

The boy want to be a Teacher. He want to learned How to read at home.

The response does not address the question.

**NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 5 READING**

- ⑫** Susan Butcher faced many challenges during the Iditarod. Explain how she overcame them. Use information from the article to support your answer.

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response identifies the challenges during the Iditarod and provides a thorough explanation of how Susan Butcher overcame them. Response includes relevant information from the article.
3	Response identifies the challenges during the Iditarod and provides an explanation of how Susan Butcher overcame them. The response includes some information from the article.
2	Response identifies the challenges during the Iditarod and provides a partial explanation of how Susan Butcher overcame some of them. Response uses limited information from the article.
1	Response is vague/minimal.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	no response

Training Notes:

Challenges and how she overcame them:

- A moose attacked and killed two of her dogs during the race. Thirteen dogs were also hurt. Butcher quit the race and stayed by her dogs until they were well.
- Two lead dogs fell through the ice and almost pulled the other dogs and the sled in with them. Her dogs stopped and Butcher helped them pull the others to safety.
- Butcher slid off course and crashed into a boulder. She got back on the trail.
- After that she faced a blizzard, but moved on to win the race.

SCORE POINT 4

A moose attacked and killed two of her dogs, and injured thirteen. She quit the race and stayed with her dogs. Two of the dogs fell through the ice, they had almost pulled the other dogs into but they were trained well so they knew to stop. Butcher's team fell off the course and crashed into a boulder. She got back on the track and soared a blizzard, but she triumphed and had won their third Iditarod!

The response identifies the challenges, thoroughly explains how Butcher overcame them, and includes relevant information from the article.

SCORE POINT 3

One of the challenges Butcher had in the race was two of her lead sled dogs fell through the ice. She overcame it by the other dogs stopping and pulling them back up. Another challenge she had was she got attacked by a moose and two dogs died and thirteen of them were injured. She overcame it by quitting the race until they were better.

The response identifies some of the challenges, explains how Butcher overcame them, and includes some information from the article.

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 5 READING

SCORE POINT 2

How She overcame the problem is that She didn't do well 1978 through 1985 then She came back and three years in a row. Those three years She had trouble each race like two dogs fell through the ice and she crashed into a boulder and she kept on going and She ended up winning each time.

The response provides a partial explanation of the challenges with limited information from the article.

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 5 READING

SCORE POINT 1

Susan Butcher won three times in a row because she trained her dogs the way she wanted them to be trained.

The response is vague or minimal.

SCORE POINT 0

Susan is a good Sled-dog •

The response is totally incorrect.